

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 OC-06
OPR-02 A-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 SY-05 /087 W
-----050644Z 075184 /21

O 050215Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASH DC FLASH 380

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

CNO COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

DET 4 AFSCF MAHE ISLAND SEYCHELLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 295

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, PINT, CASC, SE

SUBJECT: COUP D'ETAT REPORTED IN SEYCHELLES

1. RADIO SEYCHELLES ANNOUNCED AT 0630 LOCAL JUNE 5 THAT PRESIDENT JAMES MANCHAM HAS BEEN OVERTHROWN IN SUCEESSFUL COUP D'ETAT AND TOTAL CURFEW IMPOSED EXCEPT FOR ESSENTIAL HOSPITAL AND AIRPORT SERVICES. ANNOUNCEMENT CHARGED MANCHAM WITH "RUINING SEYCHELLES WITH USELESS EXPENSES", NOT CARING ABOUT SEYCHELLOIS AND SPENDING MOST OF HIS TIME WITH FOREIGNERS OR ABROAD IN EUROPE.

2. ACCORDING COMMUNIQUE, MANCHAM WAS OVERTHROWN BECAUSE "HE HAD DECIDED TO BECOME A DICTATOR" BY ANNOUNCING POSTPONEMENT FOR FIVE YEARS OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS DUE IN JUNE 1979. (COMMENT: CONFIDENTIAL

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ACCORDING REPORTS FROM MP'S OF BOTH PARTIES RECEIVED OVER PAST SEVERAL DAYS, MANCHAM AND PRIME MINISTER RENE HAD AGREED PRIVATELY TO POSTPONEMENT "IN ORDER TO CONSOLIDATE PRESENT COALITION GOVERNMENT." THERE HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS MOVE).

3. SITUATION PRESENTLY UNCLEAR. TWO MEMBERS OF MANCHAM'S

PARTY, SDP, INCLUDING ONE OF ONLY TWO SDP MINISTERS PRESENTLY IN SEYCHELLES (MANCHAM HIMSELF IS IN LONDON FOR COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE) CAME TO RESIDENCE AT 0430 AND INFORMED ME THAT AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE WAS HEARD IN VICINITY OF CENTRAL POLICE STATION AND SPECIAL FORCE (PARAMITITARY POLICE) HEADQUARTERS COMMENCING AROUND 0330. ACCORDING UNCONFIRMED REPORTS FROM SOURCES IN TOWN WHO WERE CONTACTED BY TELEPHONE, BOTH POLICE ARMORIES WERE SEIZED BY 200 MILITANTS IN RENE'S PARTY WHO WERE LED IN ATTACK BY JACQUES HODOUL. SHOOTING ALSO REPORTED IN AREA OF HOMES OF RENE AND HIS FOLLOWER , LABOR MINISTER MAXIME FERRARI. AT LEAST ONE POLICE FATALITY REPORTED.

4. ACCORDING INFORMATION RECEIVED BY BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, ACTING SUPERINTENDANT OF POLICE, HEAD SPECIAL BRANCH, COMMANDER SPECIAL FORCE AND ONE OTHER POLICE OFFICAL (ALL BRITISH) UNDER ARREST.

5. PERPETRETORS OF COUP ATTEMPT NOT IDENTIFIED IN COMMUNIQUE.

6. INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE AND TELEX COMMUNICATIONS REPORTEDLY CUT AND AIRPORT MAY BE CLOSED.

7. COMMUNIQUE SAID FOREIGN NATIONALS AND DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WILL NOT BE AFFECTED "PROVIDED THEY DO NOT INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY."

8. THUS FAR, USAF TRACKING STATION STAFFED BY APPROXIMATELY 150 AMERICANS CONTINUES TO FUNCTION NORMALLY WITH NIGHT CREW. NO INFORMATION PRESENTLY AVAILAIBLE ON AMERICAN
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RESIDENTS (APPROX 25) AND U.S. TOURIST POPULATION (50 ON AVERAGE)

9. SENDING THIS MESSAGE FROM TRACKING STATION, 2 MILES FROM RESIDENCE. OTHER EMBASSY STAFF WILL STAY AT HOME UNTIL CURFEW LIFTED.

10. FOR LONDON: BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER DOES NOT HAVE SECURE COMMUNICATIONS AND REQUESTS INFORMATION THIS MESSAGE BE PASSED TO FCO ASAP.

11. DEPARTMENT ACTION: USS MORTON SCHEDULEEEVISIT SEYCHELLES JUNE 6-9 AND NAVY P-3 AIRCRAFT EXPECTED JUNE 7-8 IN VEIW TONIGHT'S DEVELOPMENTS, RECOMMEND CANCELLATION THESE VISITS PENDING CLARIFICATION LOCAL SITUATION.

MATTSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VICTOR00295
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770200-0381
Format: TEL
From: VICTORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770689/aaaadafs.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e392b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2270681
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUP D'ETAT REPORTED IN SEYCHELLES
TAGS: PINS, PINT, CASC, SE, (MANCHAM, JAMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e392b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009